

On page 11, cancel line 14.

In the Claims

On page 9, cancel line 1 and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

5 **--We Claim as Our Invention--**

Please cancel claims 1-6, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

7. A method for testing subscriber access lines together with an associated subscriber line circuit and a connected subscriber terminal of a digital telecommunications system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a digital signal processor on at least one of a subscriber-line-specific basis and a small group of subscriber line circuits;

providing, via the digital signal processor, subscriber-line functions related to telecommunications traffic;

15 carrying out, via the digital signal processor, a plurality of different test functions to obtain test result data in order to identify malfunctions substantially all the time, automatically and successively;

gathering the test result data at a central point while observing specific selection criteria; and

20 transmitting, in specific requirement situations, the test result data to specific locations in a subscriber access area with which the subscriber access lines are associated.

8. A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 7, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the test result data to a location at which defect-rectification measures are currently being carried out, provided they relate to a geographical area of interest at this point.

30 9. A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission of the test result data is limited to items which